



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Public Hearing: February 27, 2017
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony: Submitted by Connecticut Police Chiefs Association
Chief Paul Fitzgerald
Chief Paul Melanson

HB 7129 AN ACT CONCERNING AN ACCIDENT REPORT FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT IN WHICH A PERSON WAS KILLED.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association recommends a minor change and then supports HB 7129.

The investigation of motor vehicle accidents where a person is killed is equally important to a criminal homicide investigation.

Municipal Police Departments have invested significant resources into training and equipment in order to conduct comprehensive investigations. Many municipal police departments have partnered with neighboring communities to create Regional Investigative Teams. Regional Investigative Teams are necessary to concentrate sufficient resources to these time sensitive and complex investigations.

In most cases, the investigation is able to reach a conclusion as to the cause of the accident. Most police departments have excellent working relationships with the local States Attorney. The positive working relationship provides for consultation throughout the investigation. Referring the inconclusive investigation to the States Attorney will provide a mechanism for additional review, which may assist in determining the causative factors in such an investigation.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association recommends that the wording that refers an investigation to the state police be changed to refer an inconclusive investigation to any additional motor vehicle crash reconstruction team. There are several throughout the state of Connecticut.